

**Amendment to the Claims:**

Please amend the pending claims by rewriting them to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A hand-held vacuum cleaner comprising:
  - a vacuum cleaner body having a handle, and housing an electric powered blower powered by a battery with a switch disposed between the battery and the blower;
  - an intake portion releasably connected to the vacuum cleaner body such that the intake stage forms an airtight seal with the vacuum body;
  - the vacuum cleaner having an intake opening, an exhaust portion, and
  - a filtration system disposed [there between] therebetween to filter contaminated air drawn through the intake opening, the filtration system including:
    - a first passive stage to filter out airborne particles above a predetermined size,
    - an active stage including an energy source and at least one agent effective to kill ambient biological contaminants, and
    - a second passive stage for removing odors and hazardous chemical agents,wherein the first passive stage is sandwiched between the active stage and the second passive stage to form an integral filter.
2. (Currently amended) A hand-held vacuum cleaner in accordance with claim 1 wherein the energy source is a UV light source, which emits UV light at a frequency and intensity effective to kill biological contaminants contained in the contaminated air, and to form ozone to oxidize chemical contaminants contained in the air.

3. (Previously presented) A hand-held vacuum cleaner in accordance with claim 1, wherein the agent in the active stage is clorohexdine, ethanol, lysostaphin, benzoic acid analog, lysine enzyme and metal salt, bacitracin, methicillin, cephalosporin, polymyxin, cefaclor, Cefadroxil, cefamandole nafate, cefazolin, cefime, cefinetazole, cefonioid, cefoperazone, ceforanide, cefotanme, cefotaxime, cefotetan, cefoxitin, cefpodoxime proxetil, ceftaxidime, ceftizomxime, ceftrixone, cefriaxone moxalactam, cefuroxime, cephalixin, cephalosporin C, cephalosporin C sodium salt, cephalothin, cephalothin sodium salt, cephapirin, cephradine, cefuroximeaxetil, dihydratecephaloghin, moxalactam, or loracarbef mafate.
4. (Original) A hand-held vacuum cleaner in accordance with claim 1, wherein the agent in the active stage is lysine enzyme, and additionally comprises a chelating agent in an amount effective to enhance the effect of the lysine enzyme.
5. (Currently amended) A hand-held vacuum cleaner in accordance with claim 1, wherein the active stage additionally comprises one or more metallic agents effective to kill ambient biological contaminants.
6. (Currently amended) A hand-held vacuum cleaner in accordance with claim 5 wherein the metallic agent is silver, zinc, titanium, or copper mesh.

7. (Currently amended) A hand-held vacuum cleaner in accordance with claim 1, wherein the active stage additionally comprises an IR light source, an electric or magnetic field generator.
8. (Currently amended) A hand-held vacuum cleaner in accordance with claim 2, wherein the active stage additionally comprises an electric or magnetic field generator to separate airborne particles from contaminated air.
9. (Currently amended) A hand-held vacuum cleaner in accordance with claim 2, wherein the electric or magnetic field generator includes microfilaments, micro electrical plates or magnetic coils.
10. (Currently amended) A hand-held vacuum cleaner in accordance with claim 2, wherein the active ingredient is in the form of a particulate, a tablet, a tape, a mesh, a solid containing the active ingredient, or a fabric containing the active ingredient.
11. (Currently amended) A filtration unit comprising:
  - a first passive stage for filtering out particles above a predetermined size,
  - an active stage containing an ultraviolet source and at least one agent to kill ambient bacteria and viruses, and
  - a second passive stage including an adsorbent agent for removing odors and hazardous chemical agents, wherein the first passive stage is sandwiched between the active stage and the second passive stage to form an integral filter;

an intake port permitting contaminated air to enter into the filtration unit; and  
an exhalation port through which decontaminated air may be expelled.

12. (Previously presented) A filtration unit in accordance with claim 11, wherein the second passive stage includes an activated charcoal agent.
13. (Currently amended) A filtration unit in accordance with claim 11, wherein the [UV] ultraviolet light source forms ozone in order to oxidize chemical contaminants and to kill biological contaminants.
14. (Previously presented) A filtration unit in accordance with claim 11, wherein the agent in the active stage is chlorhexidine, ethanol, lysostaphin, benzoic acid analog thereof, lysine enzyme, bacitracin, methicillin, cephalosporin, polymyxin, cefaclor, Cefadroxil, cefamandole nafate, cefazolin, cefixime, cefinetazole, cefoniod, cefoperazone, ceforanide, cefotanme, cefotaxime, cefotetan, cefoxitin, cefpodoxime proxetil, ceftaxidime, ceftizoxime, ceftriaxone, cefriaxone moxalactam, cefuroxime, cephalixin, cephalosporin C, cephalosporin C sodium salt, cephalothin, cphalothin sodium salt, cephapirin, cepharadine, cefuroximeaxetil, dihydratecephalothin, moxalactam, or loracarbef mafate.
15. (Currently amended) A filtration unit in accordance with claim [14] 13, wherein the agent in the active stage is lysine enzyme, and additionally comprises a chelating agent in an amount effective to enhance the effect of the lysine enzyme.

16. (Original) A filtration unit in accordance with claim 14, wherein the active stage additionally comprises one or more metallic agents effective to kill bacteria and viruses.
17. (Previously presented) A filtration unit in accordance with claim 16, wherein the metallic agent is in the form of a mesh and is silver, zinc, titanium, copper, or iron oxide.
18. (Original) A filtration unit in accordance with claim 11, wherein the active stage additionally comprises an IR light source electric or magnetic field generator.
19. (Original) A filtration unit in accordance with claim 13, wherein the active stage additionally comprises and electric or magnetic field generator to separate airborne particles from contaminated air.
20. (Original) A filtration unit in accordance with claim 13, wherein the electric or magnetic field generator includes microfilaments, micro electrical plates or magnetic coils.
21. (Previously presented) A filtration unit in accordance with claim 13, wherein the active ingredient is in the form of a particulate, a tablet, a tape, a mesh, a solid containing the active ingredient, or a fabric containing the active ingredient.